

Helmets-to-Hardhats Program Links Troops With Civilian Careers

The federally funded Helmets to Hardhats program helps service members and military veterans put their training to use as they transition into the private sector after serving.



Launched in 2003, Helmets to Hardhats provides an important link between veterans, soon-to-be veterans and 15 building and construction trades organizations. Collectively, these organizations represent about 82,000 contractors nationwide.

Under the program, apprentices in labor unions get paid while they train, and former service members can supplement those earnings with their G.I. Bill benefits. After completing apprenticeships and advancing in their fields, workers in the building and construction trades can earn salaries approaching six figures.

Roger Ervine, a former U.S. Navy aviation electronics technician, called the Helmets to Hardhats program "an enormous benefit to those individuals who would like to find civilian employment and have a meaningful career when they get out of the armed forces." Ervine is currently an electricians' apprentice for International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local Union 639 in San Luis Obispo, Calif.

For more information on the Helmets to Hardhats Program, visit www.helmetstohardhats.com.

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